

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 4, 2002. Claims 51-57 are pending in this application and have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 35-50 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claim 51 is in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Initially, Applicant encloses a copy of form PTO 1449 that was submitted with the July 26, 1999 Information Disclosure Statement and returned by the Examiner with the Office Action dated October 25, 2000. Applicant notes that U.S. Patent No. 5,767,823 was not initialed by the Examiner and Applicant hereby request that the Examiner initial the box on Form PTO 1449 next to this patent, and return the initialed copy to Applicant with the response to this Amendment.

The Office Action rejected Claims 35-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, asserting that the limitation "wherein the first clock signal has a non-uniform periodic time" did not have support in the Specification. Cancellation of Claims 35-50 renders this rejection moot.

The Office Action rejected Claims 35-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application No. 0 421 712 B1 (Ojima et al.). Cancellation of Claims 35-50 renders this rejection moot.

Applicant submits that Claim 51, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from Ojima et al. at least for the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 51 is an image forming apparatus comprising: a display panel (see, e.g., Figure 1, reference numeral 1) for displaying an image, a pulse width modulation signal generator (see, e.g., Figure 1, reference numeral 6) for generating a pulse width modulation signal (PWMout) based on a clock signal (PCLK) and an image signal to drive the display panel, and a clock generator (see, e.g., Figs. 31 and 36) for generating the clock signal, wherein the clock generator is provided with a memory (see, e.g., reference numeral 203 in Fig. 31, and reference numeral 212 in Fig. 36) for storing a plurality of items of data and the clock generator is arranged to generate the clock signal in accordance with one of the items of data read from the memory in synchronism with a reference clock signal (nPCLK) (as shown in Fig. 32).

Applicant submits that the features recited in Independent Claim 51 are supported by Figures 31 and 36 and are described in the specification at least at page 61, lines 1-17. (It is to be understood, of course, that the scope of Claim 51 is not limited to the details of this embodiment, which is referred to only for purposes of illustration.)

One important feature of Claim 51 is generating a clock signal for a pulse width modulation in accordance with data read from a memory for storing a plurality of items of the data.

According to the present invention as recited in Claim 51, since the memory stores a plurality of items of the data, a user (or the image forming apparatus per se) can select a suitable one of items of the data. The pulse width modulation signal generator can generate a pulse width modulation signal (PWMout) based on the clock signal (PCLK) which is the suitable item of the data selectively read from the memory. Consequently, an

image can be provided with an image quality in correspondence to a user's liking or an environment in which the image forming apparatus is set.

Ojima et al. discloses a comparator (see, e.g., Figure 1, reference numeral 4) for outputting a PWM signal by comparing an output of a counter (see, e.g., Figure 1, reference numeral 6) for counting a CLK signal and an image signal. Applicant submits that nothing, however, has been found in Ojima et al. that would teach or suggest generating a clock signal for a pulse width modulation in accordance with data read from a memory for storing a plurality of items of the data, as recited in Claim 51.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that at least for this reason, Claim 51 is patentable over Ojima et al.

The other claims in this application depend from Claim 51 discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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